

Storage of Contaminated Soils

This activity applies to you if you store and treat soils contaminated with toxic organic compounds, oils and greases, and heavy metals. Typically this situation arises when other site work is being conducted, such as removing a leaking underground tank. Contaminated soils are usually excavated and left on the premises for treatment via aeration and perhaps chemical stabilization. Stormwater runoff that comes in contact with contaminated soil can carry some of those same contaminants along with suspended solids into receiving waters. The Washington State Department of Ecology regulates businesses engaged in this activity. In addition, a permit from the Puget Sound ~~Air Pollution Control~~[Clean Air](#) Agency is required if the treatment method for removing soil contaminants involves forcing air through, ~~or sucking air from~~, the soil. The BMPs below supplement other required regulations.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you are engaged in storage and treatment of contaminated soils:

1

Cover or contain contaminated soils to prevent stormwater from carrying pollutants away [to surface waters](#).



See BMP Info Sheet 5 in Chapter 4 for information on containment and run-on prevention.

2

[Required](#) Routine maintenance:

- Sweep paved storage areas monthly. Collect and dispose of soil particles. Do not hose down the area to a storm drain or conveyance ditch.



See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 4 for information on disposal options.

Stock cleanup materials, such as brooms, dustpans, and vacuum sweepers near the storage area.

ADDITIONAL BMPs

The following BMPs are not required but they can provide improved pollution control:



A catch basin insert, configured for sediment removal, may remove some of the pollutants in runoff from this activity. ~~Catch basin inserts require frequent maintenance to be effective, so you should consider this when evaluating your options.~~



See BMP Info Sheet 9 in Chapter 4 for more information.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.